

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A water-absorbent resin composition comprising an oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt and a water-absorbent resin, wherein the iron content in the resin composition is at most 1 ppm.

2. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is at least one member selected from the group consisting of sulfites, bisulfites, pyrosulfites, dithionites and nitrites.

3. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is 0.01 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.

4. (Previously Presented) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1, further comprising an organic antioxidant.

5. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 4, wherein the organic antioxidant is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acids, erythorbic acids, gallic acids, protocatechuic acids, benzimidazoles and alkylated hydroxyanisoles.

6. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the amount of the organic antioxidant is 0.001 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.

7. (Currently Amended) An absorbent comprising the water-absorbent resin composition as defined in claim 1 and a hydrophilic fiber, wherein the content of the water-absorbent resin composition in the absorbent is 40 to 95% by weight.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent as defined in claim 7 or 8 interposed between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable sheet.

10. (New) A process for producing a water absorbent resin composition comprising:
mixing a water-absorbent resin, wherein the water-absorbent resin has an iron content in the resin of at most 1 ppm, and an oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt, wherein the inorganic salt has an iron content of 10 ppm or less; and
obtaining a water absorbent resin composition, wherein the iron content is 1 ppm or less, and further wherein the water-absorbent resin composition has gel stability and discoloration resistance.

11. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is at least one member selected from the group consisting of sulfites, bisulfites, pyrosulfites, dithionites and nitrites.

12. (New) The method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the amount of the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is 0.01 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.

13. (New) The method according to claim 10, further comprising an organic antioxidant.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the organic antioxidant is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acids, erythorbic acids, gallic acids, protocatechuic acids, benzimidazoles and alkylated hydroxyanisoles.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the amount of the organic antioxidant is 0.001 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.